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NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY RELEASES SECOND REPORT ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION

San Diego, CA—Twenty-four recommendations to reduce the risk of fire to life and property are contained in the City Attorney's second investigative report on the 2007 Wildfires, which destroyed homes in the northeastern part of the City of San Diego. The report was released today and emphasizes the need for ecological fire risk land management, which is based on new wildfire research data:

This investigation has revealed that brush management is not the sole fire prevention measure available to the City. Furthermore, brush management must be implemented in an ecological manner, or it can increase the risk of wildfires. In other words, the ecological management of land and vegetation can prevent fires, while preserving San Diego's precious natural areas. The term ecological fire-risk land management is therefore a more appropriate term than "brush management" because it connotes a comprehensive, effective, and environmentally sound way to manage vegetation near development.

The City Attorney has sent a copy of the report, *Interim Report No. 29 Fire Prevention 2008*, to the Mayor and City Council.

"Two devastating wildfires in three years require that we take decisive action," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "The measures contained in the report should be adopted by the City through applicable land use plans, codes, policies, regulations, and guidelines."

The report explains why a more comprehensive and scientifically sound fire risk-reduction program should also include:

- 1) ecological fire-risk land management;
- 2) increased fire-rescue resources, especially in high fire hazard locations;
- 3) fire resistive construction and landscaping; and
- 4) improved land use planning and community design.

To view *Interim Report No. 28, Fire Prevention 2008*, visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, on the homepage, Click City Attorney Interim Investigative Report.

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